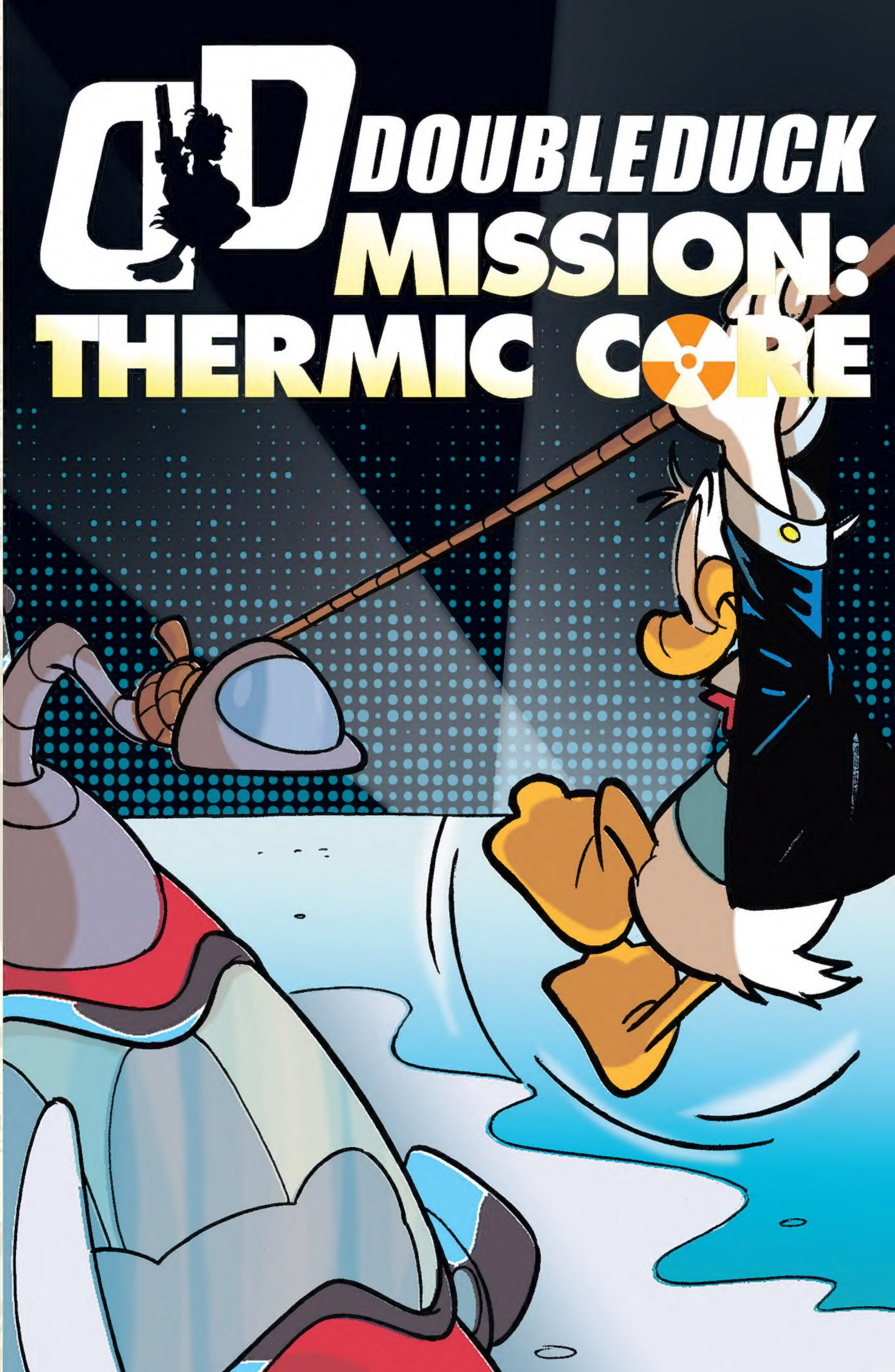
Disney COMICS

DOUBLEDUCK

DOUBLEDUCK MISSION: THERMIC CORE



DOUBLEDUCK

ISSUE 8.3

EPISODE #3

MISSION Thermic core

A VALUABLE BATHYSCAPHE, ON WHICH THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD COULD DEPEND! A LONE DUCK DEFENDING IT FROM A RUTHLESS CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION! IN FACT, THE ONLY THING MISSING FROM THIS STORY IS *PIRATES*...

WALT DISNEY

BUT NO! WE HAVE THEM TOO!

IT'S TIME! I'LL SURPRISE THEM FROM BEHIND, BEFORE THEY HAVE TIME TO REACT!

DOUBLEDUCK

?!

HANDS UP!

HEH, HEH! WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH THAT LITTLE TOY?

WATCH OUT! THIS "TOY" HAS A HYPER-SENSITIVE GET HIM! TRIGGER!

WHAT A COINCIDENCE! OURS ARE QUITE SENSI-TIVE TOO!

GULP!

SO, DUCK? SHALL WE SEE WHO PULLS THE FASTEST?

THANKS, MAYBE AN-OTHER TIME!

GET HIM!

ZOWW

HEY! WHERE'D HE GO?

THE BLOCKHEAD THREW HIMSELF IN THE SEA!

NOW MY ONLY HOPE IS *WHITE DEEP!*

SPLASH

CLUFF

PANT! LUCKILY THE PIRATES CAN'T FOLLOW ME UNDERWATER!

I'LL SUBMERGE IMMEDIATELY AND GET TO A SAFE DISTANCE!

THEN I'LL START MY COUNTER-ATTA... *OOF!*

HA, HA! WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO?

MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO TAKE US FOR A WALK!

ARGH! I FORGOT TO UNTIE THE TOW LINE!

KRRRRRRRR

SO? ARE YOU GOING TO SURRENDER OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENTERTAIN US WITH ANOTHER COMIC TURN?

SIGH! I YIELD TO SUPERIOR FORCE!

IT'S SOME KIND OF SUBMARINE! THE ***BOSS*** WILL BE VERY HAPPY!

AND...

YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE HERE, YOUR ***EXCELLENCY!*** ALL THE SINGLE CABINS ARE OCCUPIED!

OH, NO! THEY'VE CAPTURED YOU TOO!

ET VOILÀ! WE WISH YOU GENTLEMEN A PLEASANT CRUISE!

TLAK

PFFFOOO!

GULP! WHAT...

YOU'VE FREED YOURSELF FROM THE ROPES! NICE MOVE!

IT'S AN OLD TRICK! WHILE THEY WERE TYING ME UP, INFLATED MY CHEST, AND NOW I'VE BLOWN ALL THE AIR OUT FROM MY LUNGS!

WHAT PLANS DO THE PIRATES HAVE?

THE USUAL, I IMAGINE: SACKING THE SHIP AND KIDNAPPING THE CREW!

IF WE SOUND THE ALARM, COULD WE GET HELP IN TIME?

WELL, I WOULD HOPE SO!

ACTUALLY, I'M SURE WE COULD, BECAUSE...

"... YESTERDAY WE CROSSED PATHS WITH A NAVY *FRIGATE*, TASKED SPECIFICALLY WITH CHASING PIRATES!"

BUT THEY'VE TAKEN OUR PHONES! HOW CAN WE SOUND THE ALARM?

WE'LL USE THE SHIP'S RADIO!

BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO ESCAPE!

EASIER SAID THAN DONE! THEY'VE LOCKED US IN!

"YES, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A SOLUTION!"

WHAT DO YOU THINK, BOSS? ISN'T SHE A BEAUTY?

YOU WERE RIGHT, RAMON! THIS LITTLE TOY WILL COME IN VERY HANDY!

THIS TYPE OF CRAFT IS IDEAL FOR BOARDING SHIPS WITHOUT BEING SEEN!

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING, BUT WE CAN'T START THE ENGINE!

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MAYBE IT BROKE DOWN! THAT'S WHY IT WAS BEING TOWED BY THE SHIP!

GRUNT! SO HOW DO WE REPAIR IT?

BRING THE DUCK HERE! HE'LL TELL US!

GOOD, THE DOOR ISN'T ARMORED! WE CAN TAKE IT OFF THE HINGES WITH AN EXPLOSIVE MICRO-CHARGE!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG!

A STICK OF *CHEWING GUM?!*

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE SMALL DETAIL: WE *DON'T HAVE* ANY EXPLOSIVE MICRO-CHARGES!

HUH?

THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE... *MUNCH!* ACTUALLY, IT'S... *MUNCH...* A SPECIAL MINT-FLAVORED *PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE!*

MY FRIEND, ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T HIT YOUR HEAD ON A BOLLARD?

TSK! NOW YOU'LL SEE, SAILORS OF LITTLE FAITH!

I'LL JUST PUT THE PLASTIC IN THE KEY-HOLE, AND...

... RUN FOR SHELTER! I RECOM-MEND YOU COVER YOUR EARS!

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HOWLING HURRICANES! IT'S AMAZING!

JUST LIKE IN A *JAMES POND* MOVIE!

BRRR

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE A SECRET AGENT, WOULD YOU?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

COME ON! WE HAVE TO GET TO THE RA-DIO ROOM!

WHY DO WE HAVE TO GET THE DUCK? COULDN'T RAMON DO IT HIMSELF?

YOU KNOW HIS NIBS IS EX-EMPT FROM CERTAIN JOBS!

WHO, THE BOSS'S *PET?* SINCE WHEN?

WATCH OUT!

THE PRISONERS ARE ESCAPING!

STOP RIGHT THERE!

GASP! I HAVE TO GET AWAY! LET'S TRY THIS WAY!

HANDS UP!

I'LL FOLLOW THE DUCK! TELL THE OTHERS ON DECK!

WHAAAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *"ESCAPED"?*

RAMON, I'M START-ING TO LOSE MY PATIENCE!

GET BACK ON BOARD AND BRING ME THAT DUCK! *IMMEDIATELY!*

GULP! I'M GOING!

AN *HOUR* LATER...

WE'VE TURNED THE SHIP INSIDE-OUT LIKE A SOCK! WHERE HAS HE GOT TO?

IF WE DON'T CATCH HIM, THE BOSS WILL MAKE US PAY!

HE MIGHT SEND US TO BED WITH-OUT SUPPER!

OR EVEN BAN *TV* FOR A WEEK!

LET'S START AGAIN FROM THE HOLD! THIS TIME HE WON'T GET AWAY!

I'VE AVOIDED THEM SO FAR, BUT SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL FIND ME!

I HAVE TO GET TO THE RADIO ROOM RIGHT AWAY AND CONTACT THE FRIGATE...

"... AND HOPE IT'S STILL NEARBY!"

ANY NEWS? CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING ON THE HORIZON?

NOTHING AT ALL, CAPTAIN! JUST EMPTY OCEAN, AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!

TSK! WE'VE BEEN GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES FOR WEEKS!

BUT WE KNOW THE PIRATES ARE ACTIVE IN THESE WATERS!

WE'LL FIND THEM, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!

THINGS ARE BECOMING COMPLICATED! THE BRIDGE IS HEAVILY GUARDED!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET CLOSE TO THE RADIO ROOM! TIME FOR *PLAN B!*

I'LL DROP DOWN FROM... *GASP!*

WELL! LOOK WHO'S HERE!

THIS CERTAINLY IS A COINCIDENCE! WE WERE JUST LOOKING FOR YOU!

HUMPF! IF YOU'D TOLD ME, I WOULD HAVE COME SOONER!

GLUT

URGH!

WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS *SVENSON!* I'M THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER!

WHEN THE PIRATES BOARDED, I WAS ON THE BRIDGE GETTING SOME FRESH AIR!

"I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SOUND THE ALARM! SO I HID INSTEAD!"

I THOUGHT I WOULD LOWER A LIFEBOAT AND TRY TO ESCAPE!

TOO RISKY! I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!

THERE'S A RADIO ON MY BATHYSCAPHE! WE CAN USE IT TO CALL FOR HELP!

THE PROBLEM IS GETTING THERE WITHOUT THE PIRATES SEE-ING US!

HMM! WE HAVE TO CREATE A DIVERSION!

RIGHT, AND I THINK I'VE FOUND JUST THE THING!

TECNOTOYS RADIO-CONTROLLED TOYS

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HELP ME OPEN THIS CONTAIN-ER, THEN I'LL EXPLAIN!

YOU USELESS FOOLS, DON'T TELL ME THAT DUCK IS STILL ON THE LOOSE!

UMM... WE'RE SORRY, BOSS! IT'S A BIG SHIP AND IT'S FULL OF HID-ING PLACES!

GRRR! YOU'RE THE ONES WHO...

HELP! WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY ALIENS!

WHAT ARE YOU BLABBERING ABOUT? HAS THE SUN GONE TO YOUR HEAD?

IT'S TRUE! COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!

LOOK! THEY'RE TERRIFYING!

GULP! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

"ALIENS," EH? *TSK!*

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

WOW! YOU'VE DESTROYED THEM, BOSS!

IT CAME FROM THE BRIDGE!

MACHINE-GUN FIRE!

RAMON, DO YOU REALLY STILL NOT GET IT?

IT WORKED! THE PI-RATES ARE ALL GO-ING TO THE BOW!

SO WE'LL HEAD FOR THE STERN AND DROP DOWN TO THE SUBMARINE!

SURF

ALIEN INVASION

MONSTER

GULP! THEY'RE JUST *TOYS!*

WHO PLAYED THIS JOKE ON US?

SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO KEEP US OCCUPIED HERE...

... IN ORDER TO DO SOMETHING UNDISTURBED *ELSEWHERE!*

OH, YES? WHERE?

WE HAVE TO FIND HIM, IDIOTS! *MOVE YOURSELVES!*

C-CALM DOWN, BOSS! REMEMBER YOU HAVE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE!

THE FIRST THING IS TO UNTIE THE ROPE!

BE CAREFUL! ONE OF THE CROOKS MIGHT STILL BE ON BOARD!

ALL CLEAR! WE JUST HAVE TO START THE ENGINE AND GET OUT OF HERE!

START THE EN-GINE? WASN'T IT BROKEN?

NOTHING'S BROK-EN! I *BLOCKED* THE CONTROLS!

"BEFORE THEY CAUGHT ME, I DEAC-TIVATED THEM WITH A SECRET DEVICE!"

TO RESTORE FUNCTIONALITY, YOU JUST PRESS THIS BUTTON!

VERY CLEVER!

AND NOW, WITH RAPID SUBMERSION, WE'LL BE UNDERWATER IN JUST A FEW SECONDS!

IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE SENT THE RADIO MESSAGE! THE FRIGATE IS SURE TO RECEIVE... *GULP!* WHAT WAS THAT?

BWANG

SOUNDS LIKE THE BLAST FROM AN EXPLOSION!

IT CAME FROM THE SURFACE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HOORAY! OUR MEN ARE HERE!

PUT DOWN YOUR WEAP-ONS! THERE'S NO ESCAPE!

BLAM

BWANG

ARGH! THE NAVY!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

D-DON'T SHOOT, WE SURREN-DER!

BUT... I JUST SENT THE *SOS!* HOW CAN THEY *ALREADY* BE HERE?

SIMPLE: *WE* CALLED THEM!

GASP! WHAT DOES THAT GUN MEAN?

IT MEANS YOUR TRIP IS OVER! THE *ORGANIZATION* SENT ME!

?!

SO YOU'RE NOT AN ENGINEER!

OF COURSE NOT! I BOARDED THE SHIP AN HOUR AGO!

I SEE! YOU STARTED FOLLOWING ME AFTER THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE CEPHALOPOD!

EXACTLY, DUCK! BUT THIS TIME IN A MINIATURE SUBMARINE!

AND WHEN YOU REACHED ME, YOU FOUND OUT I WAS BEING HELD BY PIRATES!

AND THAT THE BATHYSCAPHE WASN'T WORKING! WE INTERCEPTED THEIR *TRANS-CEIVER* CONVERSATIONS!

WE SUSPECTED THE "BREAKDOWN" WAS YOUR WORK! SO WE CAME UP TO THE SHIP...

"... AND I SNUCK ON BOARD!"

I WAS SUPPOSED TO FREE YOU AND TAKE YOU BACK TO WHITE DEEP, SO YOU COULD GET IT STARTED AGAIN!

HUMPF! THANKS FOR THE HELP!

AND FINALLY YOUR ASSOCIATES SIGNALED OUR POSITION TO THE FRIGATE!

GOT IT IN ONE!

A NICE LITTLE SEA BATTLE WAS IDEAL FOR DISTRACTING THE PIRATES...

... AND ALLOWING YOU TO SNEAK AWAY UNDISTURBED! EXCELLENT PLAN!

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT! NOW EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GET TO WORK!

THUMP

LYNX HERE! I HAVE CONTROL OF THE BATHYSCAPHE!

RECEIVED!

FOLLOW OUR WAKE! WE'RE HEADING BACK TO BASE!

OH, DEAR! WHAT TIME IS...

THAT CROOK SVENSON MUST HAVE KNOCKED ME OUT AND... WHERE IS HE? THERE'S NO ONE ON BOARD!

AND WHY ARE WE BACK ON THE SURFACE?

THE HATCH IS OPEN! DOES THAT MEAN...

GULP! THE BATH-YSCAPHE IS ADRIFT! THEY'VE ABANDONED ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

JAY J HERE! DOUBLE-DUCK, ARE YOU RECEIVING ME?

SNORT! JUST WHO I NEED!

HELLO, DOUBLEDUCK! IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU SAFE AND SOUND!

IF I AM, IT'S CERTAINLY NOT THANKS TO YOU!

WHAT DO YOU WANT? TO TELL ME YOU'VE SOLD OUT TO SOMEONE ELSE?

ON THE CON-TRARY, I'VE CALLED YOU TO FINALLY REVEAL THE *TRUTH!*

MY BETRAYAL WAS *FAKE!* IT WAS A CLASSIC DOUBLE-CROSS!

WHAT?!

AND WHAT YOU'RE TRAVELING IN IS *NOT* WHITE DEEP, BUT A *MOCK-UP*!*

*LIFE-SIZE DEMONSTRATION MODEL

THE REAL BATHYSCAPHE LEFT LATER, WITH ONLY THE PILOT ON BOARD, HEADING FOR THE *SOUTH POLE!*

THE *SOUTH POLE?!* YOU MEAN HE WENT THE WRONG WAY?

NO, THAT WAS THE *REAL* DESTINATION! IT'LL REACH THE EARTH'S THERMIC CORE FROM THERE!

SO MY MISSION WAS A *BLUFF?*

EXACTLY! IT WAS SUPPOSED TO PUT THE ORGANIZATION ON THE *WRONG TRACK!*

UNFORTUNATELY, THE PLAN FAILED! THE CROOKS REALIZED THAT YOURS WAS THE FAKE BATHYSCAPHE!

SO THAT'S WHY THEY LEFT, ABANDONING ME ON BOARD?

YES, AND NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO STEAL THE REAL ONE!

RIGHT! YOUR EXPLANATION IS FLAWLESS!

TOO BAD I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!

?!

YOU CAN'T DECEIVE ME ANY MORE! OVER AND OUT!

ZWIIP

JUST A MINUTE, WAIT...

IT'S OBVIOUS! IT'S A *TRIPLE* CROSS, ONE OF THOSE TYPICALLY DEVIOUS SPY GAMES!

BUT I WON'T FALL FOR IT! I'LL TAKE WHITE DEEP TO THE NORTH POLE AS AGREED!

AFTERWARDS I'LL GET BACK TO... *HUH?* WHY WON'T IT START?

START

THAT'S WHY! THE *PROPELLER* HAS RUN OUT OF FUEL!

FULL

EMPTY

PROPELLER

BUT IF THE MOTOR RUNS ON UNDERWATER CURRENTS, IT SHOULD GO ON *FOREVER!*

"MAYBE I SHOULD CALL THE DIRECTOR!"

YOU'VE FINISHED THE *FUEL!* DO YOU BELIEVE ME NOW?

OKAY, I BELIEVE YOU! WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

THE ORGANIZATION SUSPECTED A DIVERSION FROM THE START! SO THEY PUT ONE OF THEIR MEN ON THE OTHER BATHYSCAPHE!

IT WAS THE *PILOT*, WHO IS NOW NOT HEADING FOR THE SOUTH POLE...

... BUT, IN ALL PROBABILITY, TOWARDS THE ORGANIZATION'S *SECRET BASE!*

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU JUST HAVE TO STOP HIM!

THE PROBLEM IS HE SWITCHED OFF THE *TRANSPONDER* AND IS NO LONGER TRACEABLE! THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU!

*LOCATING DEVICE, USED ON SHIPS AND AIRPLANES

AS OF NOW, YOUR MISSION IS TO *FIND* WHITE DEEP!

IN THE *OCEAN?!* BUT THAT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK!

AND I'VE RUN OUT OF FUEL! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

WORK IT OUT! YOU'RE A SECRET AGENT, NOT A CHILD PLAYING WITH DOLLS!

HOW WILL DOUBLEDUCK COPE WITH THIS IMPOSSIBLE TASK? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT AND LAST EPISODE OF *MISSION THERMIC CORE!*

THE END